

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-39 remain in this application. Claims 16-39 have been added.

Antecedent support for the amendments to the claims and new Claims 16, 17 and 18 is found on page 11, lines 6-17, where each vehicle is only able to communicate with the central processor within its own update cycle, and each individual vehicle possesses no model of their own position; and Claim 5 regarding "vehicles."

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-15 as being anticipated by Hara. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Referring to Hara, there is disclosed a group robot system, and sensing robots and base station used therefor. Hara teaches a group robot system in which a number of robots operate collectively. See column 1, lines 8-10. Hara teaches the group robot the system consists of a base station, a plurality of fluttering sensing robots and a plurality of fluttering pheromone robots, as shown in figure 1. Figure 7 shows the relationship between the position and hierarchical structure in communication between each of the sensing robots and between the sensing robot and the base station in the group robot system. See column 12, lines 54-64.

Claim 1 of applicants, as amended, has the limitation that "each of the N vehicles unaware of their respective position and orientation and not in communication with each other". Hara does not teach or suggest this limitation. Hara requires that the plurality of robots have a hierarchical structure and are in communication with each other. In fact, because Hara requires that the plurality of robots are in communication with each other, Hara teaches away from applicants' claimed invention where the vehicles are not in communication with each other. Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over Hara.

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Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are dependent to parent Claim 1 and are patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable.

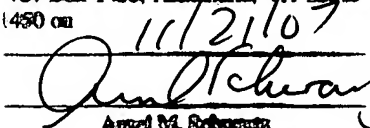
Claim 10 is patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable. Claim 11 is dependent to parent Claim 10 and is patentable for the reasons Claim 10 is patentable.

Claim 12 is patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable. Claim 13 is dependent to parent Claim 12 and is patentable for the reasons Claim 12 is patentable.

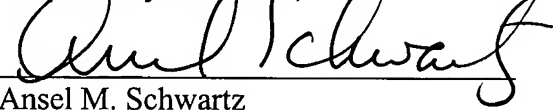
Claim 14 is patentable for the reasons Claim 1 is patentable. Claim 15 is dependent to parent Claim 14 and is patentable for the reasons Claim 14 is patentable.

Claims 16 and 17 have the limitation "each vehicle only able to communicate with this sensing means within its own update cycle". Hara does not teach or suggest this limitation.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 1-39, now in this application be allowed.

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